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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Patent No. 7,550,497	:	DECISION ON REQUEST FOR
Almansa Rosales et al.	:	RECONSIDERATION OF
Issue Date: June 23, 2009	:	PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT
Application No. 10/540,490	:	AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE
Filed: January 20, 2006	:	CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION
Docket No. 3494-107	:	

This is in response to the PETITION TO CORRECT PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT, filed August 21, 2009, which is properly treated under 37 CFR 1.705(d). Patentees request that the determination of patent term adjustment for the above-identified patent be corrected from two hundred twenty-six (226) days to five hundred ninety (590) days.

The request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent is GRANTED to the extent indicated herein.

Patentees are given **THIRTY (30) DAYS or ONE (1) MONTH, whichever is longer**, from the mail date of this decision to respond. No extensions of time will be granted under 37 CFR 1.136.

The patent term adjustment indicated on the patent is to be corrected by issuance of a certificate of correction showing a revised Patent Term Adjustment of **269 days**.

On June 23, 2009, the above-identified application matured into U.S. Patent No. 7,550,497. The patent issued with a revised patent term adjustment of 226 days. The present request for reconsideration of patent term adjustment was timely filed on

August 21, 2009, within two months of the issue date of the patent. See 37 CFR 1.705(d).

Patentees aver that the correct number of days of patent term adjustment is 590 days under the court's interpretation of the overlap provision as set forth in Wyeth v. Dudas, 580 F. Supp. 2d 138, 88 U.S.P.Q.2d 1538 (D.D.C. 2008). Patentees maintain that the total period of Office delay is the sum of the period of Three Year Delay¹ (364 days) and the period of examination delay² (321 days)³ to the extent that these periods of delay are not

¹ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), 37 CFR 1.702(b) provides:

Failure to issue a patent within three years of the actual filing date of the application. Subject to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(b) and this subpart, the term of an original patent shall be adjusted if the issuance of the patent was delayed due to the failure of the Office to issue a patent within three years after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b) or (f) in an international application, but not including:

- (1) Any time consumed by continued examination of the application under 35 U.S.C. 132(b);
- (2) Any time consumed by an interference proceeding under 35 U.S.C. 135(a);
- (3) Any time consumed by the imposition of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181;
- (4) Any time consumed by review by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences or a Federal court; or
- (5) Any delay in the processing of the application by the Office that was requested by the applicant.

² 37 CFR 1.702, provides grounds for adjustment of patent term due to examination delay under the Patent Term Guarantee Act of 1999 (original applications, other than designs, filed on or after May 29, 2000).

(a) Failure to take certain actions within specified time frames. Subject to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 154(b) and this subpart, the term of an original patent shall be adjusted if the issuance of the patent was delayed due to the failure of the Office to:

- (1) Mail at least one of a notification under 35 U.S.C. 132 or a notice of allowance under 35 U.S.C. 151 not later than fourteen months after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or fulfilled the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 371 in an international application;

³ A Restriction Requirement was mailed on February 4, 2008, 14 months and 321 days after the date on which the requirements under 35 U.S.C. 371 were fulfilled on January 20, 2006.

overlapping. Patentees contend no periods of delay attributable to grounds specified under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A) and 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) overlap. Therefore, patentees assert that they are entitled to the sum of 321 days of examination delay - 95 days of applicant delay + 364 days of Three Year Delay, for a total patent term adjustment of 590 days.

At the outset, it is noted that patentees correctly state the Office did not use the correct 35 U.S.C. 371(b) national stage commencement date of June 24, 2005, in calculating the period of adjustment under 37 CFR 1.703(b). As stated in 37 CFR 1.703(b), the period of adjustment under § 1.702(b) is the number of days in the period beginning on the day after the date that is three years after the date on which the application was filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) or the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b) in an international application and ending on the date a patent was issued. The date the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b), June 24, 2005, is used to determine the Three Year Delay under 37 CFR 1.703(b).

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.703(b), the period of adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(b) should be 364 days, counting the number of days beginning on the day after the date that is three years after the date on which the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371, June 25, 2008, and ending on the date the patent issued, June 23, 2009.

As to patentees' interpretation of the period of overlap, the Office finds it inconsistent with the Office's interpretation of the overlap provision, 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A). 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) limits the adjustment of patent term, as follows:

to the extent that the periods of delay attributable to grounds specified in paragraph (1) overlap, the period of any adjustment granted under this subsection shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

As explained in *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f)*⁴ and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A), 69 Fed. Reg. 34283 (June 21, 2004), the Office interprets 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) as permitting either patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A)(i)-(iv), or patent term adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), but not as permitting patent term adjustment under both 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A)(i)-(iv) and 154(b)(1)(B). Accordingly, the Office implements the overlap provision as follows:

If an application is entitled to an adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), the entire period during which the application was pending (except for periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)), and not just the period beginning three years after the actual filing date of the application, is the period of delay under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay overlap under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A). Thus, any days of delay for Office issuance of the patent more than 3 years after the filing date of the application, which overlap with the days of patent term adjustment accorded prior to the issuance of the patent will not result in any additional patent term adjustment. See 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A), and 37 CFR § 1.703(f). See *Changes to Implement Patent Term Adjustment Under Twenty Year Term; Final Rule*, 65 Fed. Reg. 54366 (Sept. 18, 2000). See also *Revision of Patent Term Extension and Patent Term Adjustment Provisions; Final Rule*, 69 Fed. Reg. 21704 (April 22, 2004), 1282 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 100 (May 18, 2004). See also *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f) and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A)*, 69 Fed. Reg. 34283 (June 21, 2004).

Further, as stated in the *Explanation of 37 CFR 1.703(f) and of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Interpretation of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A)*, the Office has consistently taken the position that if an application is entitled to an adjustment under the three-year pendency provision of 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B), the

⁴ Likewise, 37 CFR 1.703(f) provides that:

To the extent that periods of delay attributable to the grounds specified in § 1.702 overlap, the period of adjustment granted under this section shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

entire period during which the application was pending before the Office (except for periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)), and not just the period beginning three years after the actual filing date of the application, is the relevant period under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay "overlap" under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A).

This interpretation is consistent with the statute. Taken together the statute and rule provide that to the extent that periods of delay attributable to grounds specified in 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1) and in corresponding 37 CFR 1.702 overlap, the period of adjustment granted shall not exceed the actual number of days the issuance of the patent was delayed.

In this instance, the relevant period under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) in determining whether periods of delay "overlap" under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(2)(A) is the period during which the application was pending before the Office, June 24, 2005, the date of commencement under 35 USC 371(b), to June 23, 2009, the date of the issuance of the patent (not including any other periods excluded under 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B)(i)-(iii)).

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(A) and 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1), 321 days of patent term adjustment were accorded during the pendency of the application for Office delay prior to the issuance of the patent. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 154(b)(1)(B) and 37 CFR 1.702(b), 364 days of patent term adjustment accrued for Office issuance of the patent more than three years after the date the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b).

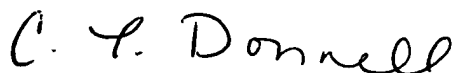
The 364 days of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(b) overlap with the 321 days of patent term adjustment under 37 CFR 1.702(a)(1). Entry of both the 364 days and the 321 days is neither permitted nor warranted. 364 days is the actual number of days issuance of the patent was delayed. Accordingly, an additional period of adjustment of 43 days will be entered for the Office failing to issue the patent within three years after the application commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b).

In view thereof, the patent term adjustment indicated on the patent should be 269 days (364 Office delay - 95 for applicant delay).

The Office acknowledges the submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e). No additional fees are required.

The application file is being forwarded to the Certificates of Correction Branch for issuance of a certificate of correction in order to rectify this error. The Office will issue a certificate of correction indicating that the term of the above-identified patent is extended or adjusted by 269 days.

Telephone inquiries regarding this matter should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3211.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "C. T. Donnell".

Christina Tartera Donnell
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Enclosure: Copy of DRAFT Certificate of Correction

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT : 7, 550,497 B2
DATED : Jun. 23, 2009
INVENTOR(S) : Rosales, et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the cover page,

[*] Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 USC 154(b) by (226) days

Delete the phrase "by 226" and insert – by 269 days--